

SENATE—Wednesday, February 9, 2000

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer.

Loving Father, You have told us that Your perfect love casts out fear. So we open our minds to think about how much You love us and open our hearts to be filled with Your unlimited love. Remind us that nothing happens without Your permission and that You are able to use everything that happens to us to bring us closer to You. Therefore, we commit to You the anxieties in our personal and professional lives that cause fear of the future. So that we may work today with freedom from fear, we entrust to Your care our loved ones and their needs, our friends who face sickness and problems, our fellow workers in the Senate who need Your special care. We surrender our fears of the possible failure of our own plans and programs. Thank You for Your bracing assurance through Isaiah: "Fear not . . . you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you."

Now we press on to the work of the day with the assurance that Your perfect love will cast out fear all through the day. In the name of Him who never leaves nor forsakes us. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1287, the nuclear waste disposal bill. Members should be aware that amendments to the nuclear waste bill will be offered during today's session. Further, a final agreement regarding amendments and debate time should be entered into at some time today. Therefore, Senators

can expect amendments to the nuclear waste bill throughout the day. As a reminder, second-degree amendments to the committee substitute must be filed by noon today.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the outline of today's activities by the acting leader. I would say, however, I think we had better understand that there is a unanimous consent agreement floating around now that is not even close, and so unless there is more work done in this regard, I think there will be a number of people on this side who simply will object to the proposal. But I am always open to suggestions, and I say to the acting leader that if the manager of the bill, Senator MURKOWSKI, has some ideas in this regard, we are certainly a phone call away.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Illinois or his designee.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair. I rise to speak in morning business.

CHICAGO'S BOB COLLINS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before addressing the President's budget, I wish to address an issue that is more personal and a lot closer to home. Chicago lost a great friend yesterday, and I lost a great friend as well. Bob Collins, top-rated radio personality in the city of Chicago, died in an airplane crash that was reported around the Nation.

Bob Collins was an extraordinary person. When you think of what creates a community, it is a person such as Bob Collins. His voice every morning in Chicago was a blend of wisdom and humor that really set people off on a good day. I can recall visiting his studios so many times and feeling right at home.

Bob was a typical Chicagoan, a typical Midwesterner, and I think that is the reason for his success. Our thoughts, of course, today are with his family and his wife Christine, but we should reflect for a moment on the great contribution which this man made in over 25 years at radio station WGN.

Great cities are made up of great people and Chicago is no exception. Bob Collins, at WGN Radio since 1974, was a combination of town crier, court jester, wise counselor, and fellow common man. A Shakespeare quote comes to mind: "He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose."

He started at age 13 at a radio station in Lakeland, FL. When he was 14, he had his own show, and radio was still at that time everyone's link to the world. Until the day he died, he remained Chicago residents' link to each other and to a wider community.

What was it about Bob Collins that made hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans tune in virtually every weekday morning? What was it about Bob Collins that enabled him not only to follow his fabled predecessor Wally Phillips, but to create his own following?

Well, like Bob, it is fairly simple. In an age of political extremes and shock radio, we found in Bob Collins an observant, thoughtful, plain spoken but fair and common man who never lost touch with the community he loved. He connected with us and with the families across Illinois and Chicago who were his loyal fans. Shaving in the morning, drinking coffee, fighting the daily commute, Bob was there at our side.

In addition to winning our ears and hearts, Bob's unparalleled ability to mix humor, human interest stories, and intelligent, thoughtful news won him award after award. His commitment to Chicago did not end when the microphone was turned off. He was always the champion of the little guy. He received the Salvation Army award known as "The Other Award" because of his spirit and his dedication.

His hobbies included motorcycling and flying. He was a man who enjoyed life and every minute of it. WGN's Spike O'Dell signed on this morning and announced: WGN Radio, Chicago. This is the Bob Collins Show." These words remind us that mornings in Chicago will always belong to Bob Collins, and he will continue to ride and fly and laugh through all of our memories.

Thank you, Uncle Bobby. Chicago is going to miss you.